



August 2006
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DBE News

Idaho Transportation Department
Published by DBE Supportive Services
Liz Healas, Editor

IS THE DBE PROGRAM DEAD? NOT HARDLY

Shocking but true: many contractors (and some of our own employees) think that the DBE Program has been eliminated!

This is not at all the case.

Here's a quick recap. As we discussed in the January and June issues of **The DBE News**, in response to a 2005 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision (*Western States Paving Co. v. State of Washington Dept. of Transportation*), the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued DBE Program guidance last December to all the

states affected by the 9th Federal Judicial Circuit (Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada Oregon and Washington).

Basically, until each state has completed a disparity study in order to gather sufficient evidence to show whether discrimination actually exists in USDOT federal-aid contracting, only race/gender-neutral methods can be used on all future federal-aid projects.

All this means is that we can't set individual

DBE project goals until the results of the disparity study are in (*see story below*).

But does this mean that the DBE Program has been done away with?

No, it does not. This court decision just covers DBE goal-setting *on individual projects*.

All the other components of the DBE Program — including adhering to DBE commitments already in place, obtaining proper releases when removing committed DBEs from federal-aid projects, DBEs per-

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WHAT'S THE STATUS ON OUR DISPARITY STUDY?

Last month, ITD's Request for Proposal (RFP) entitled **A Study to Determine DBE Availability and Analyze Disparity in the Transportation Contracting Industry in Idaho** was released by the Idaho Department of Administration's Division of Purchasing through Sicom.net, a third-party procurement administrator.

The RFP response date is August 18.

Once the RFP is closed, a review panel

will review and score the submitted proposals. After a contract is

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To see our complete **DBE Directory**, visit on-line at:

www.itd.idaho.gov/civil/dbeforms.htm

This listing is updated to our website on the first Monday of every month.

WELCOME NEW DBEs!

TRS Range Services, LLC

Kerry O'Neal, Managing Member
228 E. Plaza Street, Suite B211, Eagle, ID 83616
Phone: (208) 938-2891 FAX: (208) 939-2982
E-mail: npowers@trsrangeservices.com
Homepage: www.trsrangeservices.com

Design, construction and other work at indoor and outdoor firing ranges for federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Site preparation, construction, earth moving, and concrete work. Environmental, remediation services and natural resource services.

Interested in becoming a DBE, but don't know the certification process? Watch our slideshow at:
www.itd.idaho.gov/civil/Slideshow.pps



Where in Idaho is this?

Hint: This range separates the Snake River from the Salmon River during the Snake's passage through Hell's Canyon.

Would you prefer to receive this monthly newsletter by e-mail? Tell us!



[Answer to the July Issue: **Shoshone Ice Caves**, on SH-75.]

DBE Supportive Services Staff

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Visit us on-line at www.itd.idaho.gov/civil/external.htm

Office Location & Mailing Address:

3311 W. State St., Rm 207 / PO Box 7129, Boise, ID 83707
(Office Hours are 8am - Noon, 1pm - 5pm, Mountain Time)

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is committed to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all related regulations and directives. ITD assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any ITD service, program, or activity. The department also assures that every effort will be made to prevent discrimination through the impacts of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. In addition, the department will take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency.

September Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day State Holiday 	5 Flagging for Traffic Control LCSC Workforce Trg Lewiston (208) 792-5272 www.lcsc.edu/wft	6 Basic Internet Defense Idaho Falls ISBDC (208) 523-1087 www.idahosbdc.org	7 Biz Plan Feasibility Spokane SBDC (509) 358-7890 www.wsbdc.org	8 Slam the Door on the Killer 4 Boise AGC (208) 344-2531 www.idahoagc.org	9 Beginning Biz Workshop Boise ISBDC (208) 426-3875 www.idahosbdc.org
10	11 Biz Boot Camp Salmon Innovation Center (208) 765-1505 www.idahosbdc.org	12 Beginners QuickBooks Lewiston ISBDC (208) 792-2664 www.idahosbdc.org	13 Cash Flow Management for Growth NIC Workforce Trg Sandpoint (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nicedu	14 Best Tips for Internet Marketing Spokane SBDC (509) 358-7890 www.wsbdc.org	15 Marketing: Hitting the Right Target for Profit NIC Workforce Trg Post Falls (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nicedu	16
17	18	19 Taxes for Employers NIC Workforce Trg Post Falls (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nicedu	20 Confused about Business Taxes? Twin Falls ISBDC (208) 732-6455 www.csi.edu/support/isbdc	21 Guerilla Marketing 101 NIC Workforce Trg Post Falls (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nicedu	22 Small Biz Info Forum Idaho Small Biz Solutions - Boise (208) 334-6032	23 Practical Guide to QuickBooks Boise ISBDC (208) 426-3875 www.idahosbdc.org
24	25 QuickBooks Nuts & Bolts Spokane SBDC (509) 358-7890 www.wsbdc.org	26	27 Learn to Protect Your Biz & Ideas Spokane SBDC (509) 358-7890 www.wsbdc.org	28 Guerilla Marketing 102 NIC Workforce Trg Post Falls (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nicedu	29 Protecting Your Biz from Identity Theft NIC Workforce Trg Post Falls (208) 769-3444 http://workforcetraining.nic.edu	30

A LITTLE REMINDER ABOUT DBE BENEFITS

As federal fiscal year 2006 winds down (the new year begins October 1), DBEs should give some thought to their unused benefits.

Emerging DBE firms (five years old and under), may receive up to **\$250 in rebates**

for marketing-related expenses such as advertising, business cards, website design and hosting, and travel expenses related to proposal presentations and other marketing-related activities.

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The Boise Valley Economic Partnership (BVEP) is a regional economic development organization for the Boise metro area, which includes the surrounding cities of Nampa, Meridian, Caldwell and Eagle.

Its long-term mission is to create jobs and encourage investment in the community. It provides customized, confidential and free services to businesses that are relocating, expanding or start-up in the Boise metro area.

For more information, call (208) 472-6230.

INTERMOUNTAIN VENTURE FORUM

The 8th Annual Intermountain Venture Forum (IVF), designed to promote Idaho and the Intermountain West as a place where venture capital can fund innovative ideas and nurture next-generation companies, will be held on **September 26th & 27th at the Boise Centre on the Grove.**

At the IVF, a dozen of the most innovative and promising companies from throughout the Intermountain West will be presented to some of the nation's largest and most prestigious Venture Capital Firms. While the IVF is coordinated by the Boise Valley Economic Partnership, (BVEP), it truly is a community event presented by a coalition of investors, mentors, service providers, and civic organizations.

In addition to invaluable networking opportunities with some of the region's most promising companies and the West's top investors, the forum offers popular panels, led by experts in venture funding and angel investment.

Topics include: Creative Cities, Companies & Economies; Venture Capital & Angel Investors: What Do We Look For?; and Movers & Stayers: Doing Business in the Intermountain West

Keynote speakers include Steve Appleton, CEO of Micron Technology, Inc., and Paul Maeder, Managing General Partner of Highland Capital Partners.

To register, view the forum agenda or simply for more information, visit the IVF's website at www.ivfboise.org



When the OIG gets wise to dirty backroom deals, watch out!

BUSTED! TALES FROM THE OIG

Ohio Landscaping Subcontractor Ordered to Pay \$54,050 in Fines and Restitution for DBE Fraud under a \$37 Million Federally-funded Highway Project

On July 6, Deitering Landscaping, Inc. was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Columbus, OH to pay \$44,050 in restitution, fined \$10,000 and ordered to serve two years probation, for making false statements or otherwise aiding and abetting in providing false statements in the form of certified payrolls submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation (O-DOT) under a federally-funded highway project.

Between October 2001 and July 2003, Deitering (a non-DBE) was a subcontractor on a \$37 million

highway project in Ohio with a 7.1 percent DBE goal. The investigation found that while Deitering certified that a DBE firm would perform seeding, mulching, and ditch protection on the project, Deitering employees and equipment were used in performing this work.

After felony charges were leveled against Deitering, O-DOT debarred the firm from doing business with the Ohio state government for a six-month period ending in October 2004. Deitering pled guilty in February 2006. The ongoing investigation is being conducted jointly with the Department of Labor.

ELECTRONIC FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT SYSTEM CITED IN NEW E-MAIL SCAM

The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers to be on the lookout for a new e-mail scam that uses the Treasury Department's **Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)** as a hook to lure individuals into disclosing their personal information.

The EFTPS, which is used by more than six million taxpayers, allows businesses and individuals to pay all their federal taxes online or by phone.

The new e-mail scam, filled with grammatical and typographical errors, looks like a page from IRS.gov and claims to be from the "IRS Antifraud Commission" [sic], a fictitious group. The e-mail claims someone has enrolled the taxpayer's credit card in EFTPS and has tried to pay taxes with it. The e-mail also says there have been fraud attempts involving the taxpayer's bank account. The e-mail claims money was lost and "remaining

found" [sic] are blocked. Recipients are asked to click on a link that will help them recover their funds, but the subsequent site asks for personal information that the thieves could use to steal the taxpayer's identity.

"The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails asking for personal information," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Don't be taken in by these criminals."

Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

This latest e-mail scam is the first one known to reference EFTPS. Tricking consumers into disclosing their personal and financial information, such as secret access data or credit card or bank account numbers, is fraudulent activity which can result in



*Thieves don't have to break into your house any more to rob you. That's why on-line security is more important than ever. **Assume that all requests for personal information are "phishing" expeditions!***

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ASTRA WOMEN'S BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Astra Women's Business Alliance is comprised of women business owners, business leaders and those who support women in business. Its purpose is to provide personal, professional and income development skills for women business owners in **Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Northern California.**

Astra's mission is pursuit of leadership, opportunity and diversity for women in business. As a third-party certifier of women-owned businesses under Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) standards, Astra works to create contracts between diverse women business owners and cor-

porate or government agencies.

Astra works to create a successful environment for women by increasing access to resources, providing skills training, building partnerships and fostering an atmosphere of encouragement, cooperation and achievement.

Astra also offers support to women who want to create change in patterns that fail to support the advancement of women in business. Astra embraces change and aims to prepare women for global business expansion and financial efficacy for their families.

For more information, visit **www.astrawba.org/home.html** or call its headquarters in Lake Oswego, Oregon at (971) 204-0220.



*To learn more about the **Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)** and its certification of women-owned businesses, visit **www.wbenc.org**. The cost for certification ranges from \$300 to \$350.*

For information on preventing or handling the aftermath of identity theft, visit the **Federal Trade Commission's Identify Theft** (www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html) and **OnGuardOnline** (<http://onguardonline.gov/index.html>) web-sites.

(SCAM, Continued from page 5)

identity theft. **Such schemes perpetrated through the Internet are called "phishing" for information.**

The information fraudulently obtained is then used to steal the taxpayer's identity and financial assets. Typically, identity thieves use someone's personal data to empty the victim's financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns.

When the IRS learns of new schemes involving use of the IRS name or logo, it issues consumer alerts warning taxpayers about the schemes.

The IRS also has established an electronic mailbox for taxpayers to send

information about suspicious e-mails they receive which claim to come from the IRS. Taxpayers should send the information to: phishing@irs.gov.

More than 8,000 bogus emails have been forwarded to the IRS, with nearly 1,300 forwarded in June alone.

However, due to the volume the mailbox receives, the IRS cannot acknowledge receipt or reply to taxpayers who submit their bogus e-mails. The phishing@irs.gov mailbox is only for suspicious e-mails and not for general taxpayer contact or inquiries.

For information on identity theft prevention and victim assistance in relation to tax administration, visit the **IRS Identity Theft Web page** which can be found on IRS.gov. Then enter the term "identity theft" in the search box in the upper right hand corner.



"But I'm not dead yet!"

(DBE DEATH, Continued from page 1)

forming Commercially Useful Functions (CUFS) — all of these DBE requirements and more, are still very much in force.

ITD's DBE Plan is available on-line (www.itd.idaho.gov/civil/pdf/dbeplan.pdf) for refreshers on DBE Program components and responsibilities. It's even bookmarked for easy reference!

And please remember, although we are no longer setting individual project goals, **prime contractors and consultants are strongly**

encouraged to use DBE firms on all ITD-let projects, even in the absence of individual DBE project goals.

This will all be counted as race/gender-neutral participation towards ITD's existing overall Annual Participation Goal (APG) of 11% for this federal fiscal year.

As always, if you have any questions, please call **Julie Caldwell, EEO Contract Compliance Officer**, at (208) 334-8458, or e-mail her at julie.caldwell@itd.idaho.gov. She'll be happy to dispel any confusion about continuing DBE Program requirements.



(DISPARITY STUDY, Continued from page 1)

awarded, the disparity study can commence.

Currently, we are roughly estimating the timeframe for conducting the disparity study to be one year (subject to the conditions of the successful proposal, the actual timeframe

may vary).

Once we receive and analyze the results of the disparity study, we will fine-tune our DBE goal-setting methodology in order to ensure that it is as narrowly tailored as

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(DISPARITY STUDY, Continued from page 6)

possible in remedying the effects of discrimination, if any were found, on DBE firms.

Not only our process for setting the DBE Annual Participation Goal (APG) but the individual DBE project goals on federal-aid projects as well may be significantly affected. Our future course of action, of course, will depend on the findings of the disparity study.

Finally, our new goal-setting methodology

and rewritten DBE Plan must be approved by the USDOT before we can proceed with setting project goals again.

This delicate and complicated process will take some time! We'll keep you posted through this newsletter on our progress. If you have any questions about this process, please contact **Karen Sparkman**, EEO Manager, at (208) 334-8852, or e-mail her at karen.sparkman@itd.idaho.gov.



Sicomm.net

SicommNet is the State of Idaho's third-party provider for posting and administering larger procurement opportunities.

Visit the **Idaho Division of Purchasing** at <http://adm.idaho.gov/purchasing/bidopportunities.html> for more information.

(BENEFITS, Continued from page 3)

DBEs lacking **Internet/On-Line capability** (there's still a few of you left — don't be missing out on contracting opportunities because of it!) may receive reimbursements of **up to \$400** for hardware and software purchase and Internet Service Provider fees. Reimbursement for further training on Internet use is also available through our office (Remember, this offer is open to firms that previously had *no* e-mail accounts or Internet capability.)

DBEs, did you have **financial statements professionally prepared** to in order to obtain or upgrade a Public Works License, or to obtain bonding or business loans?

You may be eligible for a **\$100 "Financial Upgrade" Rebate**.

We've also offered DBEs **Scholarships**

for Online Construction Estimating Certification through the Construction Industrial Workforce Development Center (CIWDC). DBEs may take all of the classes through the CIWDC in order to obtain certification, or just one. We'll reimburse tuition after the class or classes are completed. (Please see the May issue of the DBE News, or contact our office for details. Also visit the CIWDC website at www.ciwdc.org for more information.)

To obtain reimbursements, the expenses must have been incurred between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006. Submit to DBE Supportive Services copies of receipts, invoices, purchase orders or other documentation clearly indicating the "what, who, when, where and how".

For any questions about DBE benefits, as always, please call or e-mail our office.



We know that the business start-up years don't allow for many "extras"; that's why we offer cash benefits to our emerging DBE firms.

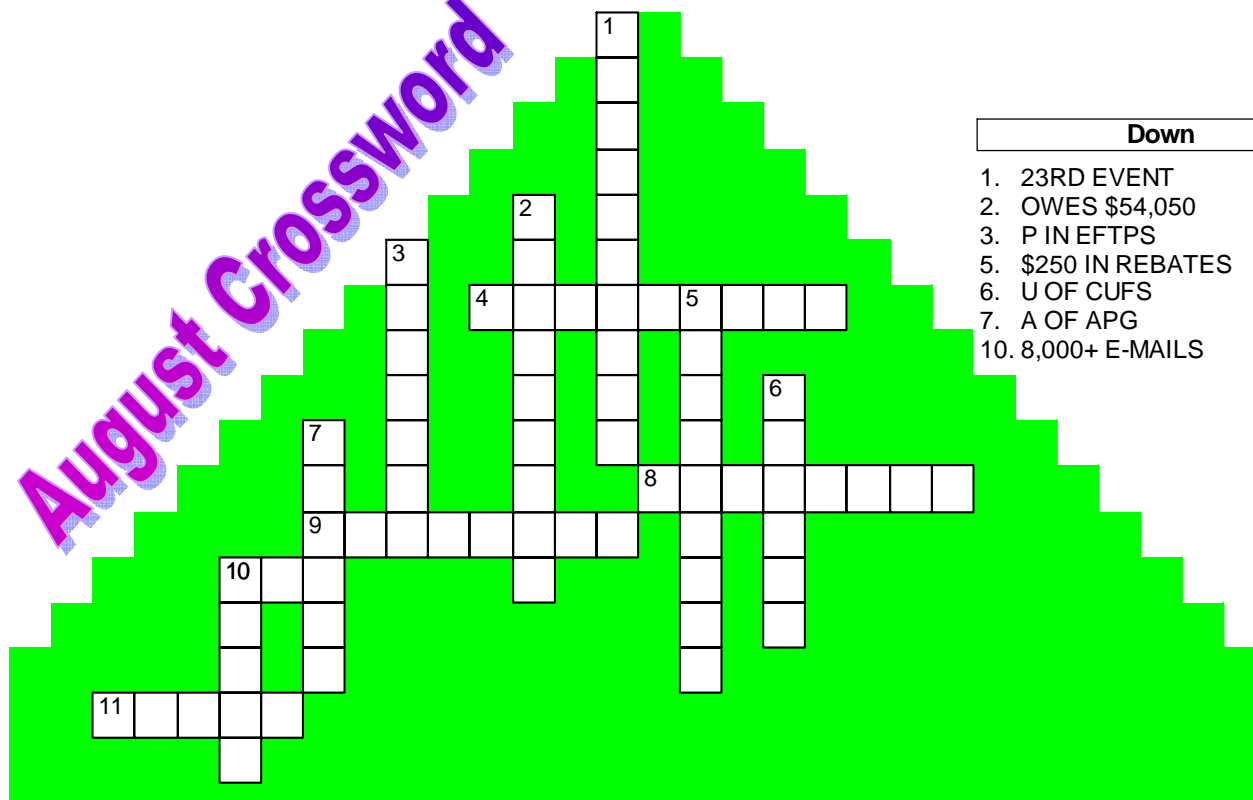
BSU ANNOUNCES 3% DBE GOAL FOR 2007

Notice is hereby given that Boise State University has finished its DBE goal FY07 and through race-neutral calculation has set its goal at 3%, and will submit such goal to the Federal Transit Administration.

The DBE program and goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours, M-F, 8:00 - 5:00, at the Boise State University's Finance and Administration office, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725 and at Valley Regional Transit's

(Continued on page 8)

August Crossword



Down

1. 23RD EVENT
2. OWES \$54,050
3. P IN EFTPS
5. \$250 IN REBATES
6. U OF CUFS
7. A OF APG
10. 8,000+ E-MAILS

by Debby McCarthy

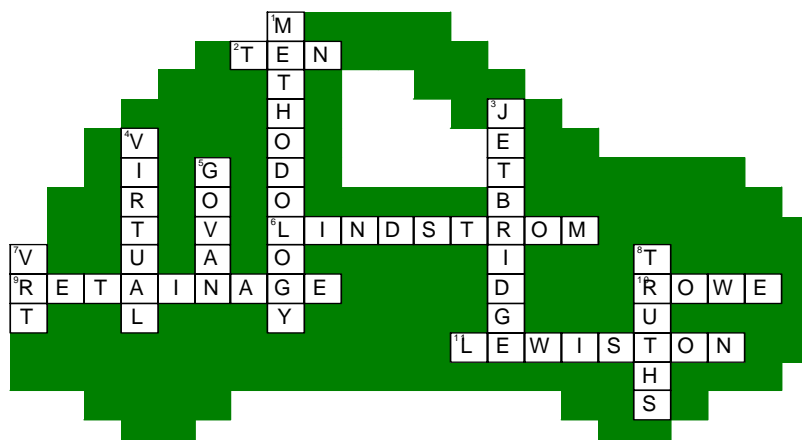
Across

4. 3RD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR.
8. 1963 GRADUATE
9. N IN WBENC
10. 3% GOAL
11. F IN IVF

(BSU Goal, Continued from page 7)

office located at 830 N. Main, Suite 230, Meridian, Idaho 83642 for 30 after August 4, 2006. It can also be viewed on BSU's website at www.boisestate.edu/parking and at www.valleyregionaltransit.org. Any comments regarding this goal may be forwarded within 45 days from August 4, 2006 to BSU's Finance and Administration Office or to Valley Regional Transit at the above addresses or may be sent to Herman Payton, Civil Rights Officer, Federal Transit Administration, 915 2nd Avenue, Room 3142, Seattle, WA 99174.

July Crossword Key



ITD HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

For the quickest, most complete notification of these projects as they are put out for bid, visit ITD's "Contractor Information Page" at www.itd.idaho.gov/design/contractors/contrinfo.htm

This excellent resource features *Notice to Contractors*, which alerts you to all upcoming federal-aid and state highway construction projects let through ITD, and list specific details and quantities, the names of resident engineers, and a brief description of the work to be performed.

Also included is: *Quarterly Bidding*

Forecast, Planholder Lists (updated daily), *Bid Result and Bid Abstract Information*, and *Contract Award Information*.

Best of all, this information is **FREE** on the Internet.

However, if you don't have Internet access, you can also subscribe to ITD's *Notice To Contractors* by calling (208) 334-8430 (1-800-732-2098 within Idaho). There's an annual \$40 fee to cover postage fees.

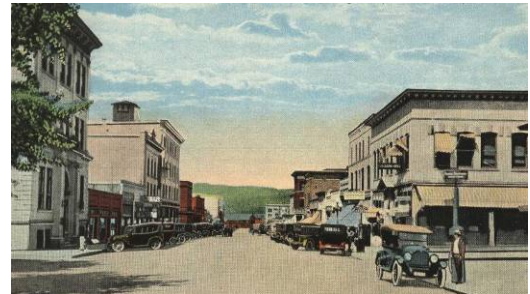
Not all of ITD's projects open for bid are directly highway-related! Check out www.itd.idaho.gov/business/business.htm (**Bid Information—Non-Highway Construction Projects**)

for bid openings on maintenance buildings, rest areas, sand sheds, mowing, and other services posted by ITD's Purchasing Section.

DBES GET FREE NON-BIDDER'S PLANS & SPECS

Idaho-Certified DBEs: remember to call DBE Supportive Services at (208) 334-4442 for *free* ITD Plans & Specifications if interested in bidding as a subcontractor.

Limit of ONE set of plans per project per DBE firm.

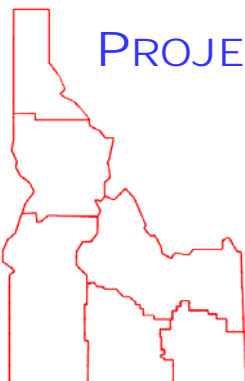


Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, c. 1922



Would you notification of other projects coming up for bid? The Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor's **Idaho Business Network** offers Bid Matching as a free service to all Idaho firms who elect to receive bid match notices via e-mail. To sign up, visit www.idahoworks.com and choose "Gov't Contracting."

PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS?



District 1	Coeur d'Alene	(208) 772-1200
District 2	Lewiston	(208) 799-5090
District 3	Boise	(208) 334-8300
District 4	Shoshone	(208) 886-7800
District 5	Pocatello	(208) 239-3300
District 6	Rigby	(208) 745-7781

Looking for the Non-ITD Projects Listings?

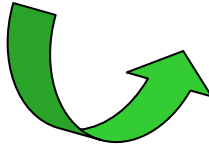
They're only available to our DBEs through **weekly e-mails**.
(Much faster & more timely!)

If you're a DBE and would like to receive these, please contact us so we can add you to our distribution list.

Idaho Transportation Department

DBE Supportive Services

A DBE is a small, for-profit business concern that is at least 51% owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.



Goals of the DBE Program

This program is designed to foster equal opportunity for minority, female and disadvantaged business owners on federal-aid transportation projects, and for helping them improve their business efficiency and flexibility.



Meredith walking to class accompanied by U.S. marshals.

This Month in History

August 18, 1963: Meredith graduates from Ole Miss

James Meredith, the first African American to attend the University of Mississippi, graduates with a degree in political science. A former serviceman in the U.S. Air Force, Meredith applied and was accepted to the University of Mississippi in 1962, but his admission was revoked when the registrar learned of his race. A federal court ordered "Ole Miss" to admit him, but when he tried to register on September 20, 1962, he found the entrance to the office blocked by Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett. On September 28, the governor was found guilty of civil contempt and was ordered to cease his interference with desegregation at the university or face arrest and a fine of \$10,000 a day. Two days later, Meredith was escorted onto the Ole Miss campus by U.S. Marshals, setting off riots that resulted in the deaths of two students.

Idaho Transportation Department
EEO Office
DBE Supportive Services
PO Box 7120
Boise, ID 83707-1129

First Class Mail
US Postage Paid
Boise, Idaho
Permit No. 143

We're on the Web! Visit us at www.itd.idaho.gov/civil/dbeforforms.htm